Money Is Generally Attractive but

By TED SHACKLEFORD

Canada's Notes Were Beautiful

CANADA'S FIRST chartered bank, the Bank of Quebec, was faced with a difficult choice in 1818, when plans were being made to issue the country's first charter banknote.

The Legislature of Lower Canada, which granted the bank its charter, also stipulated that the bank could not issue costly, engraved notes.

The bank was faced with the choice of issuing either handwritten banknotes, which would be fairly safe from counterfeiting, but take a long time to issue, or printed notes, which could be produced quickly, but were very liable to forgery.

The directors of the bank called in the government printer of the time—name unknown—and put the problem squarely in his lap.

After three days the printer returned with perhaps the most unusual banknote ever issued anywhere in the world at any time—a printed note, which could be produced cheaply and quickly, but one which all but precluded the possibility of counterfeiting.

There were 267 letters in the wording printed on the note and each of the letters was of a different type face!

For a few years only the bank's notes were printed this way. The only known specimens of these note issues are in the archives of the Royal Bank of Canada with which the Quebec Bank later merged.

In all, there were 98 charter banks in Canada which issued their own notes. Of these banks only nine are left. Charter notes were in circulation as legal tender right up until 1950, when the federal government called them in.

There are still more than $10,000,000 worth of these notes which have not been surrendered. The federal government has guaranteed payment for them at face value and the cash has been lodged in the Bank of Canada.

FROM A BANKING POINT of view, the period between 1818 and 1950 was probably Canada's most colorful and interesting era.

From the modest beginning of the first, printed charter note, charter banknotes became more and more elaborate and colorful with remarkable engraving, printed on the world's finest banknote papers.

The beauty of some of those early notes is almost incredible. All the colors of the rainbow are represented on them and allegorical figures abound.

Although these notes command little premium from collectors, due to supply and demand, collectors are always anxious to see copies in good condition. Anyone with these notes and who is interested in selling to collectors, may write to Victoria Numismatic Society at Victoria Post Office, Box 73.

Despite the number of these notes and the many different designs which were current, there was less counterfeiting in Canada than any other country in the world. Probably the very high quality of the notes themselves prevented forgeries.

Another form of banknote is existence as late as 1924 was the Bank Legal—notes printed solely for interchange between banks. They were printed in $1,000, $5,000 and $50,000 denominations and issued by the Dominion of Canada.

They were outmoded when the bank clearing system became fully operative in Canada, in 1924. The first Bank Legals were issued in 1896.

The Bank of Canada came into being in 1935 with the function of completely taking over the issuing of banknotes in the country.

The notes issued by the Bank of Canada in 1935 were the first of the present-day size. They were issued both with English and French inscriptions. Canadian banknotes became bilingual, as they are today, with the ascension of King George VI to the throne.

Odd banknotes issued by the Bank of Canada include $46,000 worth of $25 bills, $69,000 worth of $500 bills and more than $10,000,000 worth of $1,000 bills. And there are two $5,000 bills in circulation although these haven't been printed for many years.

Incidentally, it is little-known that the first banknotes printed in the United States were designed, engraved and printed by Benjamin Franklin when he was 22 years old, in 1728.

Franklin had the reputation of being the outstanding master printer in the Colonies in those days. The veins of leaves were mixed in the handmade paper on which these first bills were printed to prevent counterfeiting.

Unlike Canada, the United States has no bill of a higher value than $100.

Next week the story of issues of gold coins in Canada, including the tiny gold dollar issued by British Columbia merchants, will conclude the story of Canada's coin history.

Future articles will deal generally with interesting coins of other nations, including one coin of pure platinum.

THOUGHT FOR FOOD . . .

. . . By MURIEL WILSON

On Busman's Holiday

EVERY housewife should take a vacation from her own kitchen occasionally if for no other reason than that it necessitates emptying the refrigerator. This morning prior to leaving the house for a few weeks, I did it . . . cleared out the odds and ends that never should have been saved in the first place. A dab of jam and a dib of gravy; half a cup of sour milk, the roast bone that I intended to put into the soup pot. I even found the little blue jug that has been missing for a couple of weeks. Now, like Mother Hubbard's, my cupboard is bare.

I am a home-loving person and it is usually a job to pry me loose. However, once I get started on a vacation, no one gets more fun out of the change in daily routine than I do. I love eating meals that someone else has cooked, I love exploring big city supermarkets, I love buying new shoes, hunting for a new piece of amethyst glass, I love browsing through second-hand book shops and I love discovering new recipes.

One of the nicest meals since leaving home was a smorgasbord dinner at a private club. Although I ate far too much on the first time around I couldn't resist a second taste of a delectable crab curry. Our host, a member of the club of course, wrangled the recipe for me. This delicious dish was accompanied by browned rice.

Here is the recipe . . . First the rice. Heat two tablespoons butter in a heavy pan, add one cup raw, regular rice and heat over low heat until the kernels are golden. Add four cups boiling water and a teaspoon of salt. Cover and simmer until rice is tender and water absorbed. Do not stir while cooking and keep hot while making the curry.

Crab Curry . . . Cook one cup diced onion in one-quarter cup butter until transparent but not brown. Stir in six tablespoons flour, one-and-one-half teaspoons curry powder, one teaspoon each salt and sugar and one-eighth teaspoon ginger. Add gradually three cups milk, stir and cook until smooth and thickened. Add two cups crab meat and two teaspoons lemon juice. Heat thoroughly. Serve surrounded with the browned rice. Serves six.

A GOOD GO-WITH chutney is one I use all the time at home. It is a quickie, too. Combine one cup brown sugar, one-half cup vinegar, one-quarter teaspoon salt, one teaspoon chili powder and about two-and-half cups chopped apple. Simmer all together till the apple is soft then add one cup seedless raisins and two tablespoons chopped candied ginger. Cook about 15 minutes longer or until thick. Chill.

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At a morning coffee party there was a fascinating array of fruit breads. The one that took my fancy was a banana-cranberry loaf. As the party was in my honor I had no trouble in getting the recipe.

To make . . . Combine one-third cup shortening with three-quarter cup sugar. Add two eggs and beat well after each addition. Add one cup mashed bananas. Now sift together one-and-three-quarters cups sifted flour, two teaspoons baking powder, one-half teaspoon salt and one-quarter teaspoon baking soda. Add to the creamed mixture and, last, fold in one-half cup chopped walnuts and one cup cranberry sauce. Pour into a greased loaf pan and bake in a moderate oven for about an hour. This slices better the next day.

Served with the fruit breads at this coffee party were help-your-self fruit kabobs . . . pineapple chunks, kumquots, seedless green grapes and well-drained maraschino cherries. These fruits were threaded on to colored plastic toothpicks and anchored into halved avocados. Four of these avocado halves were used on a white pottery plate with flattened-out yellow crocus blossoms ringed around the outside of the plate. It was a lovely color accent on the coffee table and the little kabobs delicious to eat.

Husband Jim is a fine food scout always on the lookout for ideas for me to use in Thought for Food. I have before me a penciled note of a "stag" party menu. There are ideas here, girls, for an easy-to-do, quick-fix supper when Pop entertains the boys. Husky slices of home-cooked corned beef, hot mustard and stout horse radish. Baked beans, rye bread, and for dessert a large bowl of fruit salad, doughnuts and coffee. Sounds good, doesn't it?

ON READING

Reading is becoming unpopular. Soon it will become a special subject taught to rich young ladies, like needlework and the harp. The time when Johnny will be invited to smart parties "because he can read" is not far off.—Christopher Logue.

"Will you accept a deed, signed by Khrushchev himself, for five hundred acres on the moon?"